SPECIAL FEATURE NO. 3-1291 MARCH 9, 1978
WAYNE HYDE

E.Y. "YIP" HARBURG: FIFTY YEARS OF SONG-WRITING
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: MUCH OF THE WORLD HAS HEARD THE SONGS "APRIL IN PARIS", "OVER THE RAINBOW" AND "IT'S ONLY A PAPER MOON". THERE ARE HUNDREDS MORE, WRITTEN BY THE SAME MAN, AND MOST OF THE SONGS ARE PERHAPS MORE FAMOUS THAN THEIR COMPOSER. SO IT'S ABOUT TIME WE MEET THIS HAPPY MAN. HERE IS _____ TO TAKE US TO VISIT WITH E.Y. "YIP" HARBURG.

TAPE: CUT ONE - MUSIC - MEDLEY "APRIL IN PARIS", "LAST NIGHT WHEN WE WERE YOUNG", "HOW ARE THINGS IN GLOCCA MORRA?" - ESTABLISH UP FULL FIFTEEN SECONDS & FADE OUT UNDER

VOICE: HE IS EITHER EIGHTY OR EIGHTY-TWO YEARS OLD, DEPENDING UPON WHICH BIOGRAPHY YOU READ, AND HE HAS BEEN WRITING THE WORDS TO GOOD SONGS FOR SOME FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OR SO. HIS CREDITS INCLUDE SIXTEEN BROADWAY MUSICALS AND TWENTY-FOUR MOTION PICTURES. TODAY, HIS HAIR IS WHITE, HIS COMPLEXION PINK AND CLEAR, HIS BLUE EYES FULL OF WARMTH AND VITALITY. "YIP" HARBURG LOOKS LIKE AN OVERGROWN PIXIE (LUTAN), AND HIS PERSONALITY MATCHES HIS APPEARANCE. HE NOT ONLY WRITES LYRICS FOR SONGS, HE ALSO LECTURES TO CLASSES STUDYING SONG WRITING. AND HE DOESN'T WRITE LYRICS JUST TO MAKE THEM RHYME. HE FEELS THEY SHOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- HARBURG

"ANYBODY PURSUING THE ART OF LYRIC WRITING HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO HIS FELLOW MAN; FOR HIS LANGUAGE THAT HE USES, AND FOR THE THOUGHTS THAT HE LETS FLY IN THE AIR."

VOICE: THE WORDS OF A SONG SHOULD NOT ONLY ENTERTAIN, HE FEELS; THEY SHOULD ALSO COMMENT ON THE WAY THINGS ARE -- AND IT DOESN'T MATTER IN WHAT ERA OR IN WHAT PLACE. HE ILLUSTRATES THIS IS IN THE LYRICS OF "IT'S ONLY A PAPER MOON".

TAPE: CUT THREE -- HARBURG (SINGING PART OF PAPER MOON). THEN INTO:

"I'M SEEING LIFE AS IT IS, AND I'M NOT TRYING TO FOOL EVERYBODY, YOU KNOW, THAT EVERYTHING IS BEAUTIFUL, AND BLUEBIRDS, SKYLARKS, RAINBOWS. I THINK MY WHOLE ATTITUDE TOWARD SONG WRITING IS TO BE HONEST. I THINK THAT EVERYTHING A LYRIC WRITER WRITES IS DEFINITELY WHAT GOES ON INSIDE OF HIM."

VOICE: IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SAY WHICH OF E.Y. HARBURG'S SONGS IS THE MOST POPULAR. THERE WAS "BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?", WRITTEN IN THE DEPRESSION YEARS OF THE NINETEEN-THIRTIES. IT WON A SPECIAL AWARD. "APRIL IN PARIS" IS STILL ONE OF HIS BEST KNOWN, AND HAS BEEN ADAPTED FOR BOTH BALLAD AND JAZZ ARRANGEMENTS. AND THERE WAS "OVER THE RAINBOW", WRITTEN WITH COMPOSER HAROLD ARLEN FOR THE MOTION PICTURE "THE WIZARD OF OZ." IT WON YIP HARBURG AN ACADEMY AWARD. HE TOLD ARLEN THAT THE TUNE HE WANTED WAS WHAT HE CALLED "A SONG OF YEARNING" FOR A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL "WHO WANTED TO BE SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW." BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE ARLEN A TITLE, BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT HIM TO BE RESTRICTED IN HIS WRITING OF THE MUSIC. THE MUSIC TOOK TWO WEEKS TO WRITE CORRECTLY, AND ONCE IT WAS DONE, YIP HARBURG WROTE THE WORDS TO "OVER THE RAINBOW". JUDY GARLAND SANG IT IN THE MOTION PICTURE. AND MISTER HARBURG'S REACTION WHEN HE HEARD HER SING IT?

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- HARBURG

"I WAS JUST SO MOVED. I'LL TELL YOU WHY. SHE WAS YOUNG AND HONEST, AND EVERYTHING SHE DID WAS BECAUSE SHE FELT IT. (TAPE SEGUES INTO GARLAND SINGING "OVER THE RAINBOW" - HOLD 15 SECONDS AND FADE OUT COMPLETELY BY 20 SECONDS)

VOICE: E.Y. HARBURG SAYS TO WRITE A SONG, YOU LOOK FOR THE THOUGHT AND THE MEANING YOU WANT TO PUT INTO THE SONG. THEN YOU LOOK FOR THE WORDS. THE RHYMING OF THE WORDS COMES LAST OF ALL, HE SAYS. THAT IS HIS PROCESS AND HE'S BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL WITH IT. FOR THE MUSICAL "FINIAN'S RAINBOW", YIP HARBURG WROTE A SONG TO BE SUNG BY A LEPRECHAUN (ELF), WHO WAS TRYING VERY HARD TO BECOME A MORTAL. TO WRITE THE LYRICS, MISTER HARBURG PUT HIMSELF IN THE ELF'S POSITION AND TRIED TO FEEL THE EMOTIONS THE ELF WAS FEELING. THE ELF WAS FALLING IN LOVE WITH EVERY GIRL HE SAW. THAT WAS THE STORY LINE. AND E.Y. HARBURG CAME UP WITH THE DELIGHTFUL SONG THAT STOPPED THE SHOW, "WHEN I'M NOT NEAR THE GIRL I LOVE, I LOVE THE GIRL I'M NEAR." IT WAS EASY FOR YIP HARBURG TO WRITE THAT SONG. BECAUSE THE LEPRECHAUN, HE SAYS, WAS PART OF HIMSELF.

O P T.

TAPE: CUT FIVE-HARBURG SINGING "WHEN I'M NOT NEAR THE GIRL I LOVE" USE AS NEEDED - TOTAL CUT: 1:z2

VOICE: AT EIGHTY YEARS OF AGE -- OR EIGHTY-TWO -- E.Y. HARBURG IS STILL GOING STRONG. NOW THERE ARE PLANS FOR A NEW BROADWAY MUSICAL THAT WILL FEATURE HIS SONGS. THERE IS NO TITLE FOR THE SHOW YET, AND THE CAST HAS STILL TO BE SELECTED -- BUT THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE WE'LL BE HEARING MORE OF YIP HARBURG.

-0- RK/PY